

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



16th January 2026

ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

This week's attendance

94%

Target attendance

97%

Best attendance this week



**YEAR 2
97%**

Remember: Every Day Counts!

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this week's Celebration of the Word assembly we heard the Gospel reading from last Sunday about Jesus' Baptism.

Through Baptism we say 'Yes' to joining God's mission. We try to be Jesus-like in what we think, do and say. In the reading, John the Baptist asks the people to turn away from sin and repent. The Baptism of Jesus marks the end of the Church season of Christmas. What better time to start anew and to ask God's forgiveness for any wrongs we have done and to make an even great effort to love others.

The Bible is full of stories of forgiveness and second chances but I reminded the children that we also have a responsibility to strive to do better. The children heard the tale of a man and his brother branded as sheep thieves (ST). One disappears in shame but the other stays in his village and decides to turn his life around by being kind and loving. Eventually (many years later when memories have faded) a visitor asks a local why the kindly man has ST on his forehead and the villager says 'because he's a Saint'.

See if your children can remember the story.

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Doherty



DIARY DATES

- Mon 19th - Skateboarding After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Tues 20th - Art After School Club - **Year 4, Year 5, Year 6**
- Tues 20th - Forest School After School Club - **Years R - 6**
- Tues 20th - Abs Football After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Wed 21st - Coding After School Club - **Years 2-6**
- Wed 21st - Multi Skills at The Grange - 3.30pm - **Years 1/2**
- Thurs 22nd - **School Nurse Drop-In for parents** - 8.45am
- Thurs 22nd - Imaginative Prayer for **Year 6**
- Thurs 22nd - Tennis After School Club - **Years 1-4**
- Fri 23rd - Gymnastics After School Club - **Years 1-6**

Dare to Believe sports festival



Well done to the children who represented St Joseph's at Wednesday's 'Dare to Believe' sports festival. The children got to take part in archery, dodgeball, new age curling, benchball and table tennis. I am told that you did the school proud and competed with energy, enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Well done!

Freddie told me that his favourite part was benchball because he was catching every ball the other team threw. Freddie does have a slight height advantage! Thank you to our parents and carers who took their children to the event and to Dan Moody and the Christchurch School Sport Partnership for organising such a wonderful afternoon of activities.

Can I say an extra big thank you to Mrs Wasmuth for supervising the children. Without staff willing to go the extra mile we wouldn't be able to avail of these incredible opportunities.

Team: Freddie, Eliza, Aimee, Anay, Aoife, Oliver and Charlotte



Collective worship in Ducklings



Last week I had the privilege of joining Ducklings for a beautiful collective worship to celebrate the Epiphany.

The children were so reverential throughout and I was genuinely moved by the experience. To see our youngest children so engaged with their faith and having the opportunity to pray is so very beautiful. Thank you to Mrs Mills and Mrs Ramos for inviting me.



This week we welcomed two new pupils to St Joseph's. Matei joined Year 5 and Nevaeh joined our Ducklings class. We hope you have both made lots of friends. You are wonderful additions to our school community.

I would also like to say a very special well done to the following children: Eva, Zimon, Isaac and Oliver in Year 5 and Harrison in Ducklings who were picked by Matei and Nevaeh for making them feel especially welcome in their new school. You are putting your faith into action children.



Delightful division



Well done to Lillie, Florence, Tyler and Oliver in Year 4 for their wonderful formal division work this week using the bus stop method.

Family Mass at St Joseph's

Sunday 1st February is family Mass at St Joseph's. It would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible.



Attendance award!



Well done to Year 2 who were awarded this week's School Attendance Matters award with 97% attendance, which incidentally is Mr Doherty's target percentage for whole school attendance. Great job Year 2!

KS2 (Years 3,4,5, and 6) Mass



On March 25th the children from Years 3,4,5 and 6 will be joining the Parishioners at St Joseph's for morning Mass at 10am. You are all very welcome to attend also.



WOW Survey

Could we please kindly ask you to complete the WOW (Walk to School Challenge) survey via the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/parentWOW>

Your feedback will help identify improvements to make walking and wheeling to school a safer and more accessible option for families. Your time is greatly appreciated, thank you.



School nurse visit

Our School Nurse will be visiting the school on Thursday 22nd January at 8.45am for parents. If you would like to discuss anything about your child with the school nurse, please come to the school office at 8.45am. Appointments will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Guidance on illness

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell. The NHS have released a parents' guide to knowing what to do if your child is poorly. Please see the link below to read the guidance on everything from high temperatures, coughs and colds and chickenpox to measles, scarlet fever and more:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

There is also guidance if your child is feeling anxious or worried:

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/anxiety-in-children/>

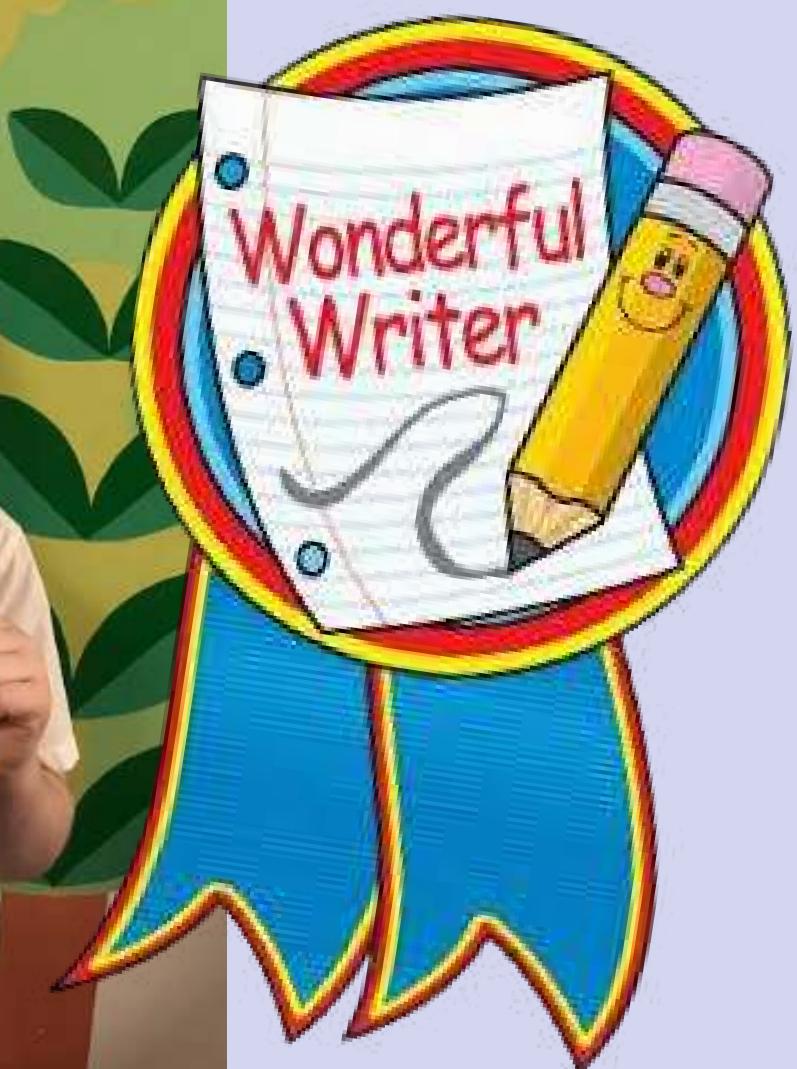
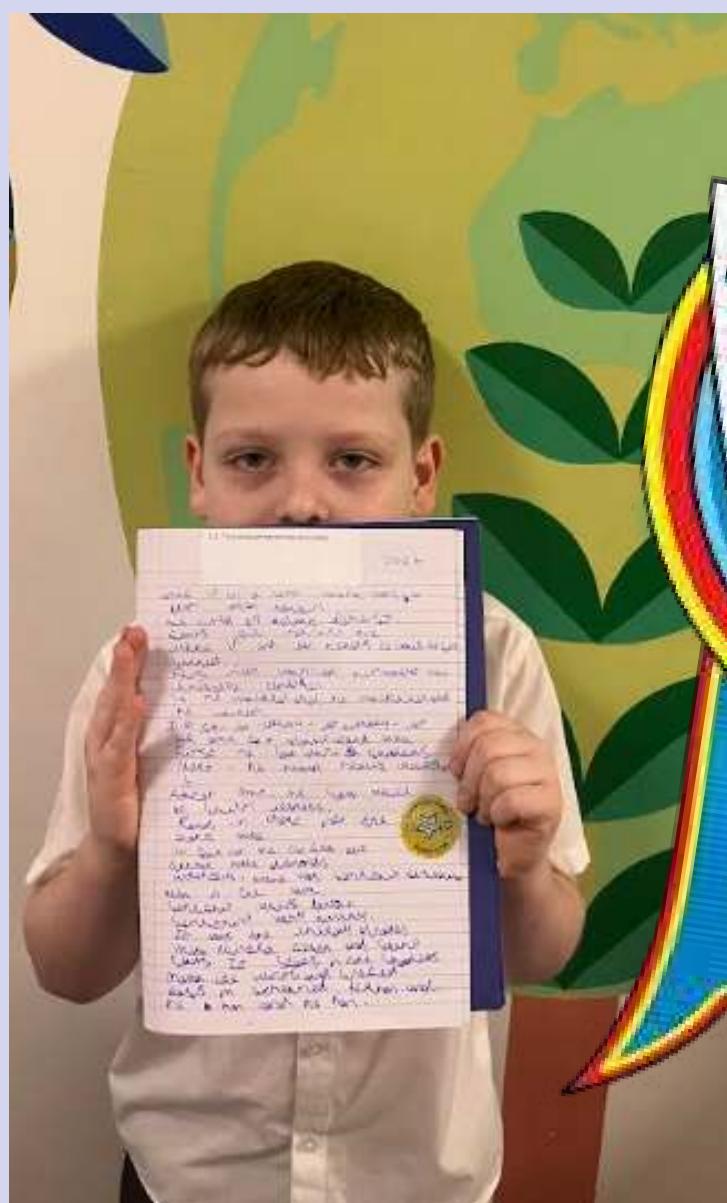
If you do keep your child off school, please ring the school office as soon as possible to report their absence.

Times table progress

Well done to Layton who has been working really hard to learn his 10 x tables. It was so lovely to see how proud Layton was of his achievement. Well done Layton.



Writer of the week!



Well done to Eddie in Year 4 who was sent to see me with his fabulous writing about Kassim and the greedy dragon. Eddie is trying really hard in class to improve his punctuation and worked independently. He should be so proud of his progress. Well done Eddie!



Shanice the star



I had a lovely visit this week from Shanice who made the most of wet play on Thursday by choosing to do extra maths work. It is wonderful to see our children so enthused about school and showing a willingness to continue their learning independently. You made my week with this Shanice!

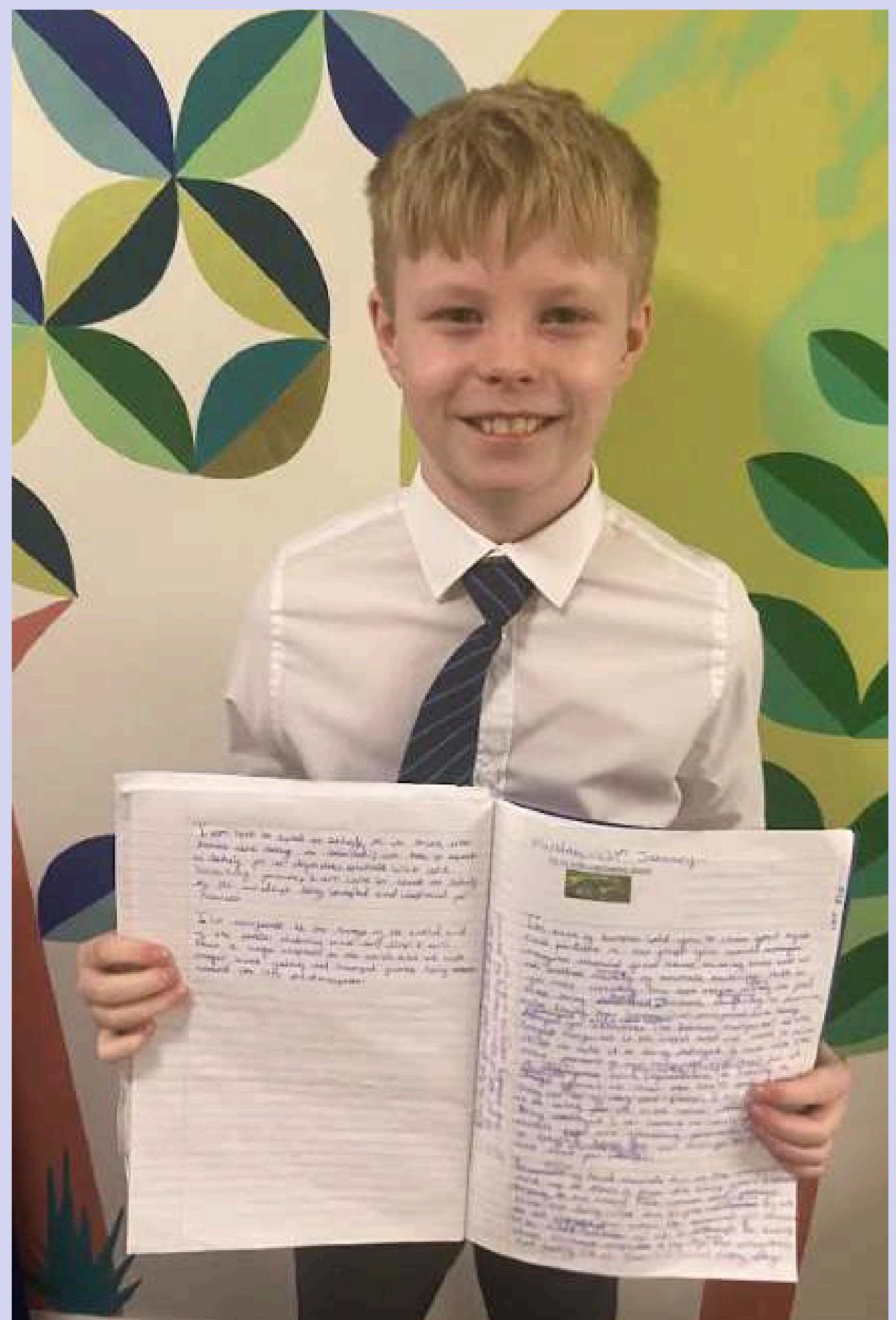
RE work of the week

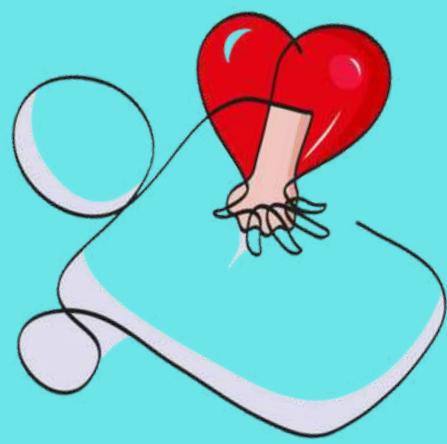
Well done to Elijah in Ducklings class who was sent to see me with his wonderful RE work last week on the Nativity. Elijah was able to tell me about all of the people that were present and even knew that a manger was a stall that held animal food! Well done Elijah! You have an amazing memory!



Outstanding oracy

Well done to Ted in Year 6 who recorded a wonderful speech that he wrote about stopping the deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest. Being able to speak confidently and clearly is a wonderful gift. Please listen to Ted's speech by scanning the QR code. Well done Ted! Impressive stuff!





First Aiders



Thank you to Joanna from 1st Response Training for delivering First Aid workshops to all of our classes this week. Please make sure you talk to your children about what they have learnt and get them to demonstrate some of their newly acquired skills such as CPR. It was lovely to hear how responsive our children were in all sessions and the staff left a lovely message in our visitors book.



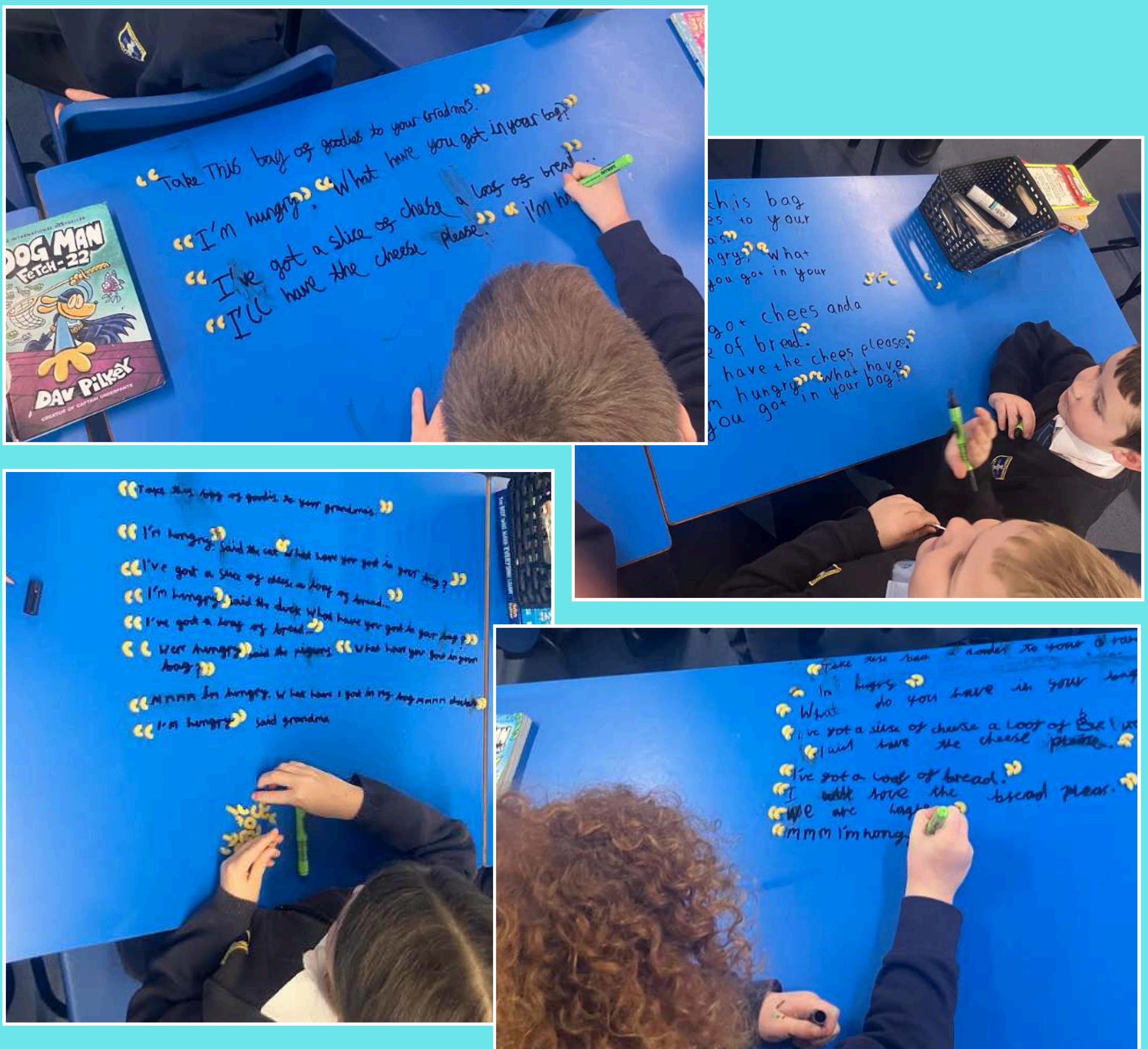
Macaroni speech



I had a lovely visit to Year 3 this week where Mrs Whyte was using macaroni to help the children learn about using inverted commas to show direct speech. The class were so engaged with the activity. It's not often that we encourage writing on tables!

Our children are so fortunate to have teachers who are constantly looking for ways to make learning fun and memorable.

Make sure you are talking to your children every day about what they have been doing in school. This is the best way to help them remember.



PTA NEWS

We need a PTA Treasurer!

Want to be our next PTA treasurer? With a clear head for numbers, you will control the PTA funds in line with the committee's decisions, as well as charity law. You will also make sure upcoming events are affordable and profitable, and report financial information to the rest of the team. For more information or to come in for a chat, please contact the school office on 01202 485976 or please email on admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk

The treasurer's responsibilities:

- Manages the day-to-day finances.
- Keeps a detailed record of the PTA's financial activity.
- Reports on the finances at meetings in a clear, concise way.
- Banks the takings from events and fundraisers.
- Arranges floats for events.
- Ensures money is kept safely before and during events.
- Makes Gift Aid claims.
- Implements procedures for making payments and claiming expenses.
- Completes the Charity Commission annual return.
- Arranges audits for accounts.
- Reports at the AGM.
- Prepares the financial report.

Suits people who are...

- Confident at handling money and budgets.
- Good with numbers.
- Methodical.

If you are interested in this role please contact the school office.



Our next clothes recycling collection!



We are pleased to announce that we have signed up to the Rags2Riches4Schools recycling scheme again this year, to help others around the world benefit from our good quality unwanted clothes and shoes. The money we raise from every kilo of clothes we collect will go towards our school. The collection is scheduled for Monday 26th January 2026. Please drop off your bags of clothes for recycling on the day of the collection. We can't accept bags before this date. Please leave outside the school office.

1

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

The PTA is vital to the success of the school. Funds raised enrich your child's learning and make every student's experience better. Be part of the group that pays for the playground your child loves or funds the library that's their favourite place to be.

2

IT'S TOTALLY FLEXIBLE

Whether you're a full-time parent or working the nine to five, anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think, and you don't always have to attend meetings. Small jobs such as designing a poster, distributing letters or running a stall keep everything running smoothly.

3

MAKE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

Meet and chat to a wider circle of families from different classes and year groups. Get to know other parents, and bond over exciting events, socials and get-togethers. Find a place to belong and spend time with others who share your values.

4

BE BETTER CONNECTED

Create closer links with the head, teachers and staff. If you're new to the school, the PTA is an excellent way to find out how things work and become part of the community. If not, you'll still gain greater insight by seeing how things work from both sides.

5

BECAUSE IT'S FUN!

Be part of the team which organises the best events and get-togethers. Debrief over a glass of wine (or two). Suggest your most hare-brained idea and watch as it catches on and everyone wants a piece of the action. Laugh. Cry. Be there for each other.

6

CHANGE SCHOOL FOR THE BETTER

Have your say on important decisions. Work with the school and other parents to see where improvements can be made, and implement them. Directly influence the experience of your child and hundreds of others.

7

LEARN NEW SKILLS

Everyone has something they can bring to the PTA, but you can also learn new skills by trading with others. Always wanted to perfect that cookie recipe? Not sure how to design a poster? Want to hone your public speaking skills? You can do it with the support of the committee.

8

IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

Studies show that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. Engaging with the PTA shows your children's education is important to you. Play your part in improving the school and watch them.

9

IT'S NOT JUST FOR MUMS

Everyone is welcome, and it's especially important to have dads and male carers represented, as male role models are crucial in children's upbringing. Dads can bring different skills; they can bring a different perspective, and they can bring along other dads.

10

CREATE LASTING MEMORIES

Our children are only at school for a few years, but they will remember the difference we make for a lifetime. They will cherish the activities and games we fund, learn using resources we buy, and remember the events we hold. Help keep the PTA going so future pupils can benefit too.

PTA+
The home of school fundraising

10 REASONS TO JOIN THE PTA



SCHOOL LIFE

Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
Multi Skills Competition at The Grange Y1/2	Wednesday 21 st January
Imaginative Prayer for Year 6	Thursday 22 nd January
Rags to Riches Clothing Recycling Collection	Monday 26 th January
Gymnastics Festival at Highcliffe School Y1/2	Tuesday 27 th January
Eco Coding Adventure for Years 1-4	Tuesday 3 rd February
Step Into Sport Festival at The Grange Y3,4,5,6	Wednesday 4 th February
NCPCC National Number Day	Friday 6 th February
Scholastic Book Fair	Tuesday 10 th February - Friday 13 th February
Gymnastics Festival at The Grange Y3/4	Tuesday 10 th February
Netball Tournament at The Grange Y3/4	Wednesday 11 th February
Imaginative Prayer for Year 6	Thursday 12 th February
Year 2 Space Camp	Thursday 12 th February - overnight
February Half Term	Monday 16 th February - Friday 20 th February
Football Development Tournament Y4	Wednesday 25 th February
Live and Inspired Music Performance	Wednesday 4 th March
Shooting Stars Festival at The Grange 2,3,4	Thursday 5 th March
PTA Race Night Fundraiser	Friday 6 th March
Imaginative Prayer for Y6	Thursday 12 th March
Netball Tournament at Twynham Primary Y5/6	Thursday 12 th March
Class Photographs with Fraser Portraits	Friday 13 th March
Parents' Evening	Monday 16 th March
Cross Country at The Grange Y3,4,5,6	Tuesday 17 th March
Parents' Evening	Thursday 19 th March
St Joseph's Feast Day	Thursday 19 th March
Mass to celebrate St Joseph's Feast Day	Thursday 19 th March
Netball Tournament at Twynham Primary Y5/6	Thursday 19 th March
KS2 Mass at St Josephs at 10am	Wednesday 25 th March
Last day of term - finish at 1.30pm	Friday 27 th March